

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, EINV, NL

SUBJECT: THIRD ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON "THE EFFECTS
OF POLLUTION ABATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE"

REF: STATE A-9464; THE HAGUE 553

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON REPAIR.
END SUMMARY.

1. MINHEALTH CONTACTS HAVE SUGGESTED CHANGES OR OFFERED
COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING PARAS OF ENCLOSURE 2 TO REPAIR:

(A) SECTION I, SECOND PARA: DELETE ALL WORDS FOLLOWING
"(THE RIJNMOND AREA)" UP TO AND INCLUDING WORDS "SOUTH
LIMBURG". EMBASSY NOTE: SENTENCE COULD BE REDRAFTED
TO READ: "THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED THE RIJNMOND AREA
AN EMERGENCY REGION IN REGARD TO AIR POLLUTION".
(FYI: SELECTIVE INVESTMENT REGULATION, WHICH APPLIES TO
RANDSTAD, HAS STILL NOT GONE INTO EFFECT AND IS
CURRENTLY IN PROCESS OF BEING AMENDED IN PARLIAMENT.
WE WILL REPORT OUTCOME OF PARLIAMENTARY DELIBERATIONS.
END FYI)

(B) SECTION I, FINAL PARA: GROUP OF INDUSTRIES
IDENTIFIED AS PRINCIPAL POLLUTERS IS TOO RESTRICTED.
EMBASSY COMMENT: OBJECTION CAN BE MET BY BEGINNING
PARA AS FOLLOWS: "AMONG PRINCIPAL AIR POLLUTERS,...ETC"

(C) SECTION III (B) (1), FIRST PARA: CHANGE "....57
CENTS PER CAPITA EQUIVALENT..." "TO READ "....10 GUILDERS
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PER CAPITA EQUIVALENT" (NOTE: SEE PARA 2 BELOW ON CURRENT

SCHEDULE OF FEES)

(D) SECTION III (B) (2), SECOND PARA: REVISE SENTENCE BEGINNING WITH WORDS "THE ACT PROHIBITS OR LIMITS...." TO READ "THE ACT PROVIDES THE AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT OR LIMIT THE OPERATION OF FACILITIES OR THE USE OF EQUIPMENT OR FUELS LIKELY TO CAUSE AIR POLLUTION AND INTRODUCES A PERMIT SYSTEM FOR INDUSTRIES WHICH MAY CAUSE SERIOUS AIR POLLUTION." (REST OF PARA REMAINS THE SAME)

(E) SECTION III (B) (2), FINAL PARA: REVISE LAST SENTENCE TO READ: "THE COSTS INCURRED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN MEASURING THE AMOUNT OF AIR POLLUTION HAVE TO BE PAID BY THE SOURCES OF POLLUTION, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS, MOTORISTS, AND USERS OF HEATING SYSTEMS, THROUGH AN EXTRA TAX ON THE FUEL THEY CONSUME."

(F) REVISE ENTRY FOR "AIR POLLUTION ACT OF 1970" IN THE APPENDIX TO READ: "DISTRIBUTES AUTHORITY BETWEEN PROVINCES AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT; REQUIRES LICENSING OF INDUSTRIES BY PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES WITH ADVICE REQUIRED FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES; BASED UPON POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS; ESTABLISHES ADVISORY COMMITTEE; ADMINISTERED BY MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE."

2. FOLLOWING INFO IS KEYED TO CORRESPONDINGLY NUMBERED QUESTIONS IN REPAIR AND SUPPLEMENTS REFTEL:

(3) FOLLOWING TABLE SUMMARIZES ANNUAL RPT ANNUAL FEES THAT, ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WATERWAYS PRESS RELEASE OF 12/74, WILL APPLY TO DISCHARGE OF POLLUTED EFFLUENTS INTO PUBLIC WATERS:

WHERE DISCHARGED ANNUAL FEE PER CAPITA EQUIVALENT, IN GUILDERS

	1975	1976	1977
FRESH WATER:	13	15	17
SALT WATER:	7	9	11

(6) FOLLOWING PROJECTIONS OF INVESTMENTS IN POLLUTION ABATEMENT IN NETHERLANDS FOR PERIOD 1973-1985 RPT 1973-1985 WERE SUPPLIED ORALLY TO US BY CENTRAL PLANNING BUREAU, A GOVERNMENT AGENCY:

TYPE OF POLLUTION	INVESTMENTS IN BILLIONS(THOUSAND MILLIONS) OF GUILDERS
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WATER	12
AIR	5.6
SOLID WASTE REMOVAL	3.2
TOTAL	20.8

INVESTMENTS PRIOR TO 1973 ON ABATEMENT OF THREE TYPES OF POLLUTION COMBINED ARE ESTIMATED AT TOTAL OF THREE (3) BILLION RPT BILLION GUILDERS. ANNUAL RATE OF INVESTMENT BY 1985 IS ESTIMATED AT 5 BILLION GUILDERS. THE CURRENT

(1975) CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE PROVIDES FOR DIRECT GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES OF 97 MILLION RPT 97 MILLION GUILDERS FOR WATER, AIR AND NOISE POLLUTION ABATEMENT COMBINED.

(7) OFFICIAL GON POLICY IS TO ADHERE STRICTLY TO POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE (PPP). WHILE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, RULES ON EXCEPTIONS TO PPP DO NOT EXIST, EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE ON AD HOC BASIS IN CASES WHERE GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS WOULD THREATEN ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF AN EXISTING ESTABLISHMENT (EXCEPTIONS, WE ARE TOLD, ARE NOT REGARDED AS SETTING PRECEDENT FOR OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY). ARTICLE 23 OF ACT ON POLLUTION OF SURFACE WATER AND ARTICLE 63 OF AIR POLLUTION ACT PROVIDE LIMITED POSSIBILITIES FOR GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES TO INDUSTRY. WE UNDERSTAND FROM MOEA OFFICIAL THAT AUTHORITY IN LATTER ARTICLE HAS NEVER BEEN USED. ACCORDING TO RIJNMOND OFFICIAL WHO IS ALSO ADVISER TO HEALTH MINISTRY, GON TO DATE HAS NEVER SUBSIDIZED INSTALLATION BY A FIRM OF POLLUTION ABATEMENT EQUIPMENT. SAME OFFICIAL BELIEVES THAT POLLUTION ABATEMENT COST ESTIMATES IN 1972 CENTRAL ECONOMIC PLAN (SEE PART (IV) OF ENCLOSURE 2 TO REFAIR) ARE TOO LOW; HE IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON REVISION OF ESTIMATES WHICH EMBASSY WILL REPORT WHEN AVAILABLE. GOULD

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